

Photographed on May 9<sup>th</sup>, just as the unconditional surrender terms were being ratified in the German capital - the scene showed the emptiness and desolation at this once largest city on the continent [Berlin]. The Reichstag is bomb-scarred. Hardly a landmark escaped being hit during the Allied air attacks. Numerous officers on the German High Command and the interim administration were arrested as prisoners of war on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Among the more prominent Nazis seized under the supreme headquarters directive are Admiral Dönitz, General Alfred Jodl and Albert Speer, Minister of Economics and Production. The same day at *Lüneburg*, Germany, Heinrich Himmler *also* ended his life by taking poison.

British troops captured the SS chief while trying to escape wearing a disguise and carrying false papers. Himmler died by crushing and swallowing the contents in a small vial of poison which he had concealed in his mouth.

In the wake up it's unconditional surrender, on 7 May 1945, Germany lay vanquished. Millions had died - and those that survived had suffered terribly during the conflict, both in combat and on the home front. Intensive Allied bombing raids and the ground battle for Germany forced millions of Germans from their homes.

The question was: "What now? how can we go on living?" what will the allies do with Germany? On 5 June 1945, the allies announced they would govern Germany through four occupation zones - one for each of the four powers: the Soviet Union, Britain, France and the United States. Most Germans accepted the occupation, *however*, many former party officials and fanatical Nazis refused Admiral Dönitz's order to surrender. Hitler had given instructions earlier in 1945, where he suggested that any German commander who wanted to stop the fight should automatically be removed from command. That his instructions were not valid! some **werwolves** rationalized this and declared Dönitz's commands invalid, because they wanted to seize the fight and therefore did not have to listen to him.

Between April 1945 and December 1948, numerous resistance groups attacked occupation forces. A secret map was published in January 1946 by the United States counterintelligence branch which detailed over 500 criminal act perpetrated in any one three-month period, including looting, rioting, sabotage, as well as 69 assaults on Allied personnel.

Resistance group sometimes attacked the allies using plastic explosives fitted with timing devices.

"They uncovered cases where headquarters were blown up after the Allies had arrived. There was one case where a schoolhouse was blown up but luckily for the Allies, they had evacuated it before the bomb went off."

Another deadly tactic involved using specially designed explosive coal - a piece of this would be mixed in with real coal in the hope that an Allied soldier would toss the fake fuel into a boiler, causing explosion! On the Eastern Front, one cruel method of sabotage involved leaving behind poison filled bottles disguised as alcohol. They were hoping the troops would do a lot of drinking when they got to Germany - and that they could lay low some of these people with poison liquor. The approved method for that, which had been developed by this Gestapo lab in Berlin was to put methane in liquor. The effect was a little bit delayed, but it couldn't be deadlier and hurt people very very badly.

Another serious concern facing the Allies was the tremendous number of weapons still in the hands Germans. In December 1945, seven months after the end of war, one thousand weapons possessions charges were filed... many of these involved teenagers and young boys. Thousands were rounded up and kept in makeshift

camps. In an effort to crack down on any resistance, the Allies responded with harsh measures: disobedience to our orders result in immediate punishment.

Death sentences were meted out for resistance to the Allied forces; for acting in defiance of terms imposed by the Allies; or falsely pretending to be a member of the Allied forces. These tough measures were carried out, both, to crush any armed resistance and to protect the occupying forces. While the Americans used the firing squad to punish guerrillas, the British employed the traditional German method of execution- beheading.

After moving into German, Allied forces initiated the controversial use of mass reprisals. These served to prevent resistance, although they violated the Geneva Convention, prohibited occupying powers from reprisals against a people when they've been attacked by individuals or small groups.

In one particular town, an Allied soldier was shot by a German sniper - a Hitler Youth sniper - and then shot 30 German soldiers in reprisal. In another town they moved into, there was a shooting and they lost a soldier - and they pulled out of that town to the outskirts and shelled the hell out of it all night and moved back in the next day.

The French forces, certainly, had no love lost for the Nazis. They often used harsh measures to quell German guerrilla activity.

The French encountered quite a bit of resistance when they moved into Freudenstadt,

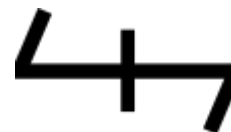
mostly from scattered soldiers, but also from snipers who weren't clothed in military uniforms - **Werwolves**. So they enthusiastically shelled the city [ ] and arrested the entire male population - and kept them incarcerated for a couple days... with no food or water.

The French occupation was also marred by its alleged brutal treatment of many German women. There were a lot of cases of violation and rape for many years... people did not talk about it publicly... but in the last years it has come up again.

But the Soviets were the most vicious when it came to punishing guerrillas. Their compulsion was simply to kill anyone remotely suspected of resistance. In the German town of Königsberg, Soviets responded to the killing one other soldiers by rounding up 200 young German men and shooting them.

The Soviets had special units of NKVD that were deployed to do this... to perform this particular function... to track down **Werwolves** and kill them.

While the allies tried to stop the guerrillas, they also faced another problem, dealing with POWs - following the war hundreds of thousands of former soldiers and Nazi Party members were held in P O W camps. While most were set free to help rebuild the country, thousands of officers and members at the Nazi Party remained imprisoned. Their fate - a trial for war crimes. Elsewhere, every adult German citizen was subjected to an intense new program to uncover any involvement with Hitler's Third Reich. German public opinion began to harden against the Allied occupiers. Among the biggest complaints were food and fuel shortages, runaway unemployment and the requisitioning of housing by allied forces.



Wolfsangel

Scattered Nazi loyalists sought support and sympathy among unhappy Germans through posters, leaflets and anti occupation graffiti. Homes of suspected collaborators were marked with the dreaded **Wolfsangel** - a German heraldic charge inspired by an

historic wolf trap. **Werwolves** had a reputation of leaving calling cards at crime scenes... as a warning to others. Indicating to a lot of people that maybe they shouldn't do certain things right now - as they would still be around after the Allies went home.

The Allies weren't going to be in Germany forever - so to prevent any recurrence of German fascism the Allies began a program to de-Nazify Germany and its former territories. Theirs was a policy designed to root out and purge all former party members from positions of power.

Because the declared war-aim of the United Nations was to stamp out both Nazism and militarism in Germany, military government has one basic rule: Don't business with the Nazis. Further, there is to be no fraternization between Allied men and the Germans. Even today, propaganda assures Zion that no one is going to forget "what the Germans had done to the civilized world."

Naturally, once the war was lost, the German people were indoctrinated in blasphemous concentration camp atrocities and religious persecutions, the people could only rumour of the ill treatment of German prisoners of war, but very few ever admitted to having been a member of the Nazi Party. When working with the counterintelligence corps, military government weeded out the Nazis as fast as they could. It was a tough job - dealing with innocent people in treachery.

In the first year of occupation, the Allies imprisoned over 200,000 former Nazis; over 100,000 were eventually charged.

Military officers, government officials, industrialists, bankers... people who composed the elite a German society during the Nazi years found themselves in prison during de-Nazification. The Allies confronted a new passive form of resistance - the most important part of resistance was trying to free Allied troops in respect of your own responsibility for national socialist crime. Resistance to the occupation took the formal more quiet kind of opposition, that is, in attempting, *for example*, in universities or industries to protect colleagues and not to reveal the truth about who had done what in the past.

**Captain James Hudson** was an OSS officer responsible for interviewing suspected Nazis. Of course, the only way to do this interrogation is to have a whole series of subordinates and people are associated together, and we would interview them separately, and in doing so we would normally catch the terrorists... and if we found any that were in our opinion dangerous to us, we went ahead and passed them on to the CIC or headquarters. Military tribunals were set up across Germany for accused Nazi war criminals - the most famous of these was the Nuremberg trials, which began in November 1945. Here - 22 members at the Nazi leadership were put on trial on charges of conspiracy to wage an aggressive war, the committing of war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

The common sentiment amongst the Allies was that twelve million men, women and children had died - murdered in cold blood. What right had any man - to mercy - who played a part, *however*, indirect in such a crime?

The trials lasted 11 months - of the 22 defendants a total of eleven were sentenced to death, three were acquitted, and the rest received prison terms. Ten men were hanged in November 1946. **Herman Göring** cheated the hangman's noose by swallowing a cyanide pill just hours before his execution.

De-Nazification, *however*, did not seek merely to punish the leadership of the Nazi regime, but to purge all elements at National Socialism from German life. Every German living in the American sector was required to fill out a detailed questionnaire; suspect individuals were then brought before [ ] citizen councils throughout Germany.

In 1946, the responsibility for de-Nazification was given to the German authorities - from then on, these citizen councils became the centre institution of de-Nazification. The citizen council decided

whether there should be a trial and whether this-or-that person could be regarded as "unguilty."

The German public had mixed feelings over the de-Nazification trials. Most Germans complained that their methods of judgment were flawed. The problem was hard to identify - how to find out what people were guilty of - exactly. The problem was that reality was more-or-less like picture with many different colors and shades of grey...

Beginning in August 1947, the de-Nazification trials became the focus of the Nazi guerrilla movement. More than two years after the war, bomb and arson attacks struck targets in Munich and Nuremberg. In Stuttgart, a 23-year-old former SS soldier, **Siegfried Kabus** led a group of Nazi revivalists on a terror campaign aimed at undermining the American occupation - five bombs and a grenade attack rocked the city out of its post-war slumber - though damage was light, American and German officials feared a resurgence in Nazi support, but instead of rallying behind **Kabus**, the Germans did just the opposite and organized protests were formed against the bombings. In Stuttgart, 7700 workers walked off the job for 15 minutes... it was really amazing how people immediately reacted and organized demonstrations against these National Socialist guerillas. In November, authorities finally captured Kabus and his gang. A trial in January found them guilty and sentenced Kabus to death. The capture of Kabus ended the last gasp at the Nazi guerrilla movement... most Germans had seen enough fighting and killing during the war, they had no interest in returning to the past.

The level of death in the German armed forces and in German society between 1943-and-1945 staggers the imagination. The notion that there was some plan for resistance ignores the much more important fact that thousands-and-thousands of German soldiers and civilians died every day in the last month to the war - and there was no will to continue the resistance. The desperate effort to resist occupation had lasted for more than two years. Over forty allied soldiers were killed, but in the end, all efforts to revive the Nazi Party failed.

In the spring of 1947, nearly two years after the end of the second world war, the German economy remained mired in chaos ... only the black market trade seem to be thriving. In some places, jewelry, cigarettes, and chocolate became the currency of choice. 1947 was also a time of increased tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union - as the **Cold War** heated up, Germany's continued economic and social problems became a serious concern to officials in Washington.

War Department Historical Film  
H.R. B-30  
MCMXLVI

Many British and Americans thought that the Russians were right... let the Germans lie in their ashes. But the future stared at the conquerors - the democracies had no alternative - unless Germany was taught democracy it would learn communism. Another struggle - a struggle to win the mind of a country had begun. The United States government concluded that the day policy focused primarily on punishment and judicial reckoning and was not sufficient... and that, instead, the United States had to focus more to economic reconstruction.

In the hope of rebuilding Germany, on 5 June 1947, Secretary of State **George C. Marshall** outlined his economic recovery program. **The Marshall Plan** stimulated Europe's economy through a massive infusion of loans and grants to help build new roads, schools, and factories. As their economy rebounded, Germans acquired greater political autonomy - and with democracy came a call for the end of de-Nazification.

In March 1948, three years after the war, the formal de-Nazification period ended - though some 100,000 people had been

charged, only 6000 former Nazis were convicted of crimes - 800 received the death sentence. "In the end it wasn't a success... but *maybe* it was the best that could be done under the circumstances."

For all the people who were not brought to justice the people who were brought to justice comprised a far larger number than is usually the case when dictatorships collapse.